



## OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive


Tiffany Ward  
Director

### MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2022

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

cc: Gabe Albornoz, President  
County Council

From: Tiffany Ward, Director  
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-90  
FY22 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS)  
for the Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (ESPP)

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #22-90 *FY22 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) for the Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (ESPP)* has the potential to advance equitable outcomes for communities at greatest risk of experiencing disparate outcomes. Specifically, Montgomery County Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) residents and/or those who are Medicaid recipients (low-income persons, families with young children, youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly) would stand to benefit the most. In an effort to ensure that reductions in equity gaps are addressed as a result of this supplemental request, ORESJ recommends that the communities and groups highlighted above are prioritized in the distribution of these funds.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #22-90 is to fund:
- The purchase of vehicles to support service enhancements included in the FY23 Recommended Budget as well as continuity in funding for a vehicle for a civilian facilities position in the FY22 Approved Budget;
  - Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program audit services;

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- Relocation and consolidation of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Mental Health Unit into new leased space;
- A Building Envelope Study; and
- Local Fire and Rescue Department Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program distribution.

Based on MCFRS's assessment, the supplemental funds would allow them to increase the stability and subsequently the effectiveness of diverse programming such as community risk reduction programs and community emergency response teams. This could result in more equitable outcomes for BIPOC communities, low-income communities, and elderly residents by potentially reducing preventable injury, death, and damage. Based on ORESJ's understanding of the ESSP, we agree with the evaluation provided by MCFRS for reasons outlined below.

To assess whether a supplemental appropriation such as this may advance equitable outcomes or exacerbate inequities, ORESJ examines areas of greatest need in the county – BIPOC communities, low-income communities, mixed-status communities, communities with concentrations of persons with disabilities, families with young children, youth, and the elderly residents. Qualifications for supplemental payments provided by the ESPP align with ORESJ priority areas in that providers receiving these funds must meet all of the following requirements<sup>1</sup>:

1. Be enrolled as a Medicaid provider for the period being claimed on their annual cost report;
2. Provide ground Emergency Transport Services to Medicaid recipients; and
3. Be a "Jurisdictional Emergency Medical Services Operational Program.

Providers meeting the above qualifications will be considered "Eligible Providers." As ESPP prioritizes serving Medicaid recipients, who are more likely to be low-income due to eligibility rules of the program, the requested supplemental funds would serve to mitigate gaps for communities in greatest need.

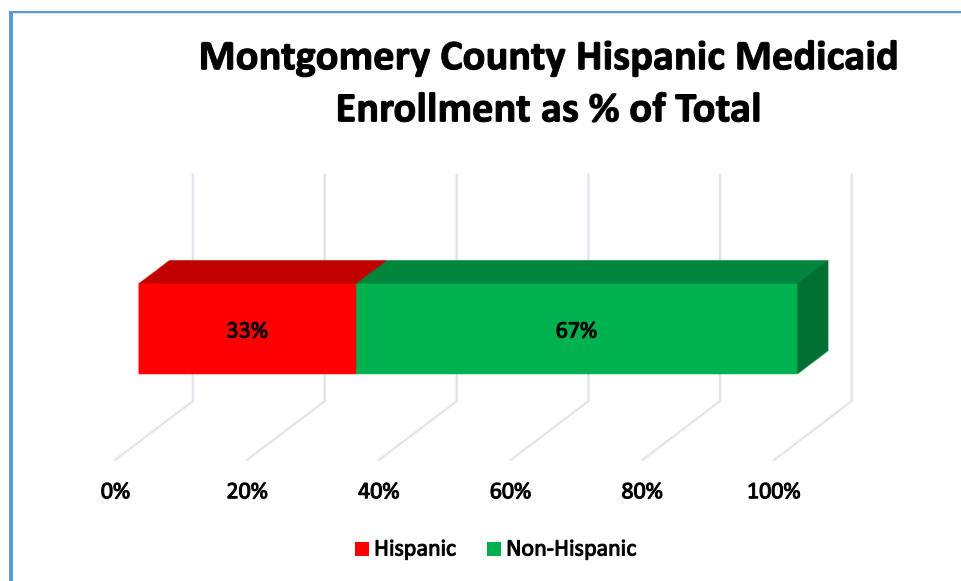
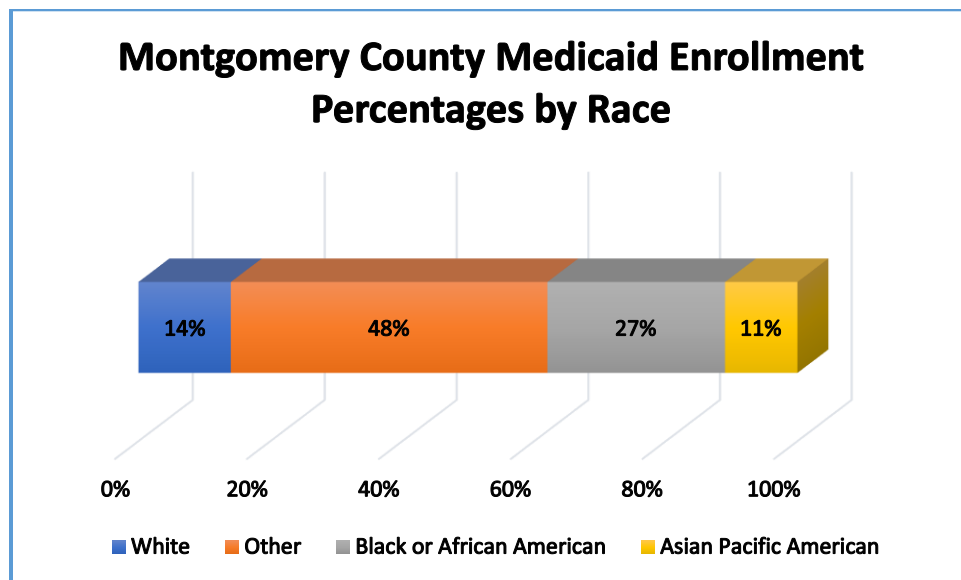
In order to participate in the Medicaid program, federal law requires states to cover certain groups of individuals such as low-income families, qualified pregnant women and children, and individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), with additional options to cover individuals receiving home and community-based services and children in foster care who are not otherwise eligible.<sup>2</sup> The Medicaid program is also a major source of coverage for

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<sup>1</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcapjcgclcfindmkaj/https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/spa/downloads/MD-20-0010.pdf

<sup>2</sup> https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/index.html

BIPOC communities, ensuring access to care and providing financial protection from health care costs.<sup>3</sup> The graphs below, created by data obtained from Maryland Health Connection's (the state's health insurance exchange) data report from August 2021<sup>4</sup>, highlight that primary recipients of Medicaid in the county identified as BIPOC.



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-and-racial-health-equity/>

<sup>4</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcapjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.marylandhbe.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Executive-Report\\_08312021.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcapjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.marylandhbe.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Executive-Report_08312021.pdf)

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So long as ESPP funds are prioritized to serve communities in greatest need, as they are intended, ORESJ believes that these targeted resources could work to mitigate disparities experienced most acutely by:

- Black residents of the county experiencing cardiac arrest,<sup>5</sup> as well as elderly residents and persons with disabilities who are at greater risk of experiencing a life-threatening event; and
- Low-income families with young children and youth who are at greater risk of experiencing preventable injury and death.<sup>6</sup>

cc: Scott Goldstein, Director, Fire and Rescue Services  
Ken Hartman, Director, Office of Strategic Partnership, Office of the County Executive

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<sup>5</sup> chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/spotlight/HeartDiseaseSpotlight\_2019\_0404.pdf

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/child-injury/index.html>